



---

**First Steps Facilitator: Becky Taggart, representing 27 counties**

**Regional LICC status:**

Active LICCs: 10 active LICCs incorporating 20 counties  
Inactive LICCs: 1 inactive LICCs incorporating 2 counties (Newton & McDonald)  
LICCs in development: 5 counties out of 27 not represented (Dallas, Douglas, Ozark, Texas, and Wright), have new chairperson for Dallas

**Primary Outcomes of LICCs:**

1. Increase public awareness of the program and the contact point/SPOE
2. Establishing a well-functioning Child Find system
3. Increasing the number of providers to meet the needs of families and allow choices for families
4. Recruiting members and increasing the consistency of attending LICC membership with members from a variety of backgrounds, especially parents
5. Locating community resources

**Summary of activities and accomplishments:**

The LICCs continue to work on the outcomes selected by their membership to address child find, provider recruitment, public awareness, and LICC membership. Three SPOE's send a representative when available to meetings to provide information on referrals and the number of children in the program.

- Barry/Lawrence LICC ~ Compiling a list of red flags/milestones for parents/caregivers/ teachers
- Benton/Henry/St. Clair LICC ~ Rotate location of meetings to involve more members in each county, January meeting to address the state-wide shortfall in funding with DESE and legislature.
- Camden/Laclede LICC~ Meeting in December discussed decreased referrals
- Dade/Barton LICC ~ Delivered brochures to area organizations, agencies, businesses, schools and medical offices to increase public awareness and membership as attendance has decreased over the past year.
- Tri-Lakes First Steps Coordination Council (Cedar, Polk, and Hickory) ~ started provider recruitment & changed meeting time to 4 PM to increase attendance
- Greene/Christian LICC ~ Have a volunteer to help write a grant to support LICC activities and member will attend another community meeting to increase public awareness and child find
- Jasper LICC ~ The Child Find subcommittee has developed a flyer on First Steps that they are using to inform physicians and child care providers about services to children 0-3 w/disabilities; each month at our LICC meetings we "spotlight" a local agency that provides services to families and children w/disabilities; our service providers have decided to develop a support group where they can share with each other frustrations and successes in working with the current First Steps system.
- Phelps/Pulaski LICC ~ See SE facilitator's report.
- Children's Resource Connections (Stone & Taney) ~ Meetings rotate between Taney and Stone counties to promote attendance; obtained FS brochures that are written in Spanish to pass out in the community; Skagg's Hospital Social Worker Supervisor agreed to place FS brochures in each gift bag that families receive when newborns are discharged from the hospital. The hospital was given 100 brochures to start this process.
- Texas County ~ No TEAM meeting in December
- Webster LICC ~ Gave FS flyers to Newborns in Need, WIC, and health department to increase child find; discussed participating in Play Day this spring with Webster County Child Care Coalition, and looking at changing meeting times and places to increase attendance

**Key Points to provide the SICC:**

1. (Jasper) Recruiting new providers is very difficult due to the current provider dissatisfaction. We continue to have service provider complaints at the LICC meetings. They are unhappy with the paperwork requirements, reimbursement schedules, and misinformation given from the CFO. Our providers are in need of support and technical assistance. Our First Steps Intake Workers have expressed concern that we only get referrals for First Steps from 1 of our 2 large hospitals in Joplin. One of the hospitals makes no referrals to First Steps and tries to meet the needs of the children within their own system, with their own therapists.

**SOUTHWEST REGION LICC REPORT**  
**JANUARY 9, 2004**  
**PAGE 2**

2. (Jasper) We continue to look for ways to involve parents in our LICC. We are planning to put together a “parent pack” about our LICC in hopes this will help. We have offered the meetings at different times, locations, and with child care, but have only had 2 parents attend each time.
3. (Jasper) Having a First Steps Facilitator at our LICC meetings has been invaluable to us. She has provided us with information, resources, and support that we desperately needed. We couldn’t have gone as far as we have without her. This position is key to keeping the LICC’s informed and motivated.
4. ( Stone/Taney) Lack of referrals to the SPOE since redesign (less than 10)
5. (Henry/St. Clair/Benton) Concern over shortage of providers, implications of funding shortages.
6. (Henry/St. Clair/Benton) The system appears to be failing children and families when eligible children and families cannot received identified services.
7. (Henry/St. Clair/Benton) We have been unable to develop a strong core group within the LICC to provide consistency and ongoing leadership. We need the commitment of time to make personal contacts and maintain a mailing list as well dollars to fund mailings, etc.